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Message Text

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PAGE 01 HELSIN 02408 271206Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3007

S E C R E T HELSINKI 2408

NODIS

(FOR DAVID ANDERSON, S/S -- PLEASE PASS TO PAUL C. WARNKE, ACDA)

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PCAT, PARM, UR, US
SUBJECT: PRELIMINARY REPORT ON CAT: SUGGESTED VANCE TALKING POINTS WITH THE PRESIDENT

1. GOOD PROGRESS ON ESTABLISHING THE FRAMEWORK AND CONTENT OF AN OVERALL SET OF PRINCIPLES TO REGULATE AND RESTRAIN ARMS TRANSFERS. WE HAVE TABLED A SET OF POLITICAL/LEGAL CRITERIA WHICH WOULD DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT ARMS TRANSFERS SHOULD BE MADE. WE HAVE ALSO TABLED A SET OF MILITARY/ TECHNICAL CRITERIA, ALONG THE LINES OF YOUR RESTRAINT POLICY, WHICH WOULD BEGIN TO SET LIMITS ON TYPES AND AMOUNTS OF TRANSFERS. OF MOST IMPORTANCE WE HAVE DISCUSSED HOW THESE CRITERIA APPLY IN DIFFERENT REGIONS OF THE WORLD, SO THAT FUTURE MISUNDERSTANDINGS OF CRITERIA WOULD BE MINIMIZED. THE SOVIETS HAVE DISCUSSED ALL THIS IN A SERIOUS MANNER.

2. THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE OR NO PROGRESS IN GETTING THE SOVIETS TO AGREE TO BILATERAL INTERIM RESTRAINT MEASURES. BUT WE HAVE MADE CLEAR THAT SUCH CONCRETE STEPS ARE A NECESSARY INGREDIENT OF OUR EFFORT, AND THEY HAVE ACCEPTED THE POSSIBILITY OF DOING SO.

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3. THE THEMES OF OUR PRESENTATION TO THE SOVIETS HAVE BEEN: (A) THESE NEGOTIATIONS CANNOT BE OF AN OPEN ENDED CHARACTERN AND (B) THE NEXT ROUND, TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER, IS CRITICAL AND WILL BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT WHEN YOU REVIEW YOUR RESTRAINT POLICY IN MAY OF NEXT YEAR.

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4. ESSENTIALLY, THE TWO SIDES NOW UNDERSTAND WHAT A RESTRAINT AGREEMENT WOULD LOOK LIKE AND HOW IT WOULD WORK. WHAT IS LACKING IS THE COMMITMENT TO MAKE IT REAL. LIKE OUR EUROPEAN PARTNERS, THE SOVIETS REMAIN SUSPICIOUS, THINKING THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS ARE MERELY A PLOY OF JUSTIFY FUTURE INCREASES IN US ARMS SALES. THE SOVIETS TELL US THAT A CRITICAL FACTOR FOR THE FUTURE OF CAT IS THE OVERALL STATE OF US-SOVIET RELATIONS. THEY ALSO TELL US PRIVATELY THAT A DEMARCHE FROM YOU TO BRZHNEV OR FROM ME TO GROMYKO WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL BEFORE THE NEXT ROUND.

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